

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**JESSIE MEDLIN, PRESIDENT 2002 PRESIDING**

**February 15, 2002**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The February 15, 2002, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie Medlin, Board President.

Chief Deputy Charlie Brown of the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Department was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1
- Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
- Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----District 3
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----District 4
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5, Absent (Attending a Regional Utility Authority meeting in Washington, D.C.)
- W. E. Sluggo Davis-----Chancery Clerk
- Sheriff James Albert Riley-----Sheriff’s Dept.
- David Armstrong-----County Administrator
- Bill Austin-----Board Attorney

**B. INVOCATION**

Supervisor John Caldwell presented the invocation.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Entergy – Request for ROW on Hwy. 301 & 304 (Eudora School Property)**

After hearing the finding of Billbo Williams of the Road Department that this action would not be detrimental to County property, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the Board President to sign the right of way agreement to allow Entergy to cut trees as indicated on the diagram provided by Entergy on the roadway on Hwy. 301 and Hwy. 304, known as the Eudora School Property, to allow them to relocate power lines along the roadway. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES
- Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES
- Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES
- Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**CONTINUED,**

**D. NEW BUISINESS**

**1. Health Insurance**

County Administrator David Armstrong and Director of Personnel Vickie Richmond presented the proposals for health insurance to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Mr. Armstrong reminded the Board the current health coverage expires at the end of February. Under the umbrella of health insurance, Mr. Armstrong explained, are life insurance, dental insurance, and health insurance.

Regarding life insurance, Mr. Armstrong reminded the Board that last year the Board increased life insurance coverage from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Currently County employees pay \$0.31 per thousand and \$1.28 per month for family coverage for spouse/child benefits of \$5,000/\$2,500 respectively. This year the current carrier, Unum, proposes an increase to \$0.43 per thousand. However, we got a quote from Metropolitan Life Insurance for \$0.33 per thousand and \$1.37 per month for family coverage for spouse/child benefits of \$5,000/\$2,000 respectively, and he and Ms. Richmond recommend Metropolitan Life Insurance for life insurance coverage for County employees.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton asked why Unum increased their rates since we did not have a claim during the last year. Mr. Armstrong said companies writing life insurance do not consider the number of previous claims when determining rates.

At the recommendation of the County Administrator and the Director of Personnel, Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve Metropolitan Life Insurance for life insurance coverage for County employees for the coming year beginning March 1, 2002. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

Regarding dental insurance, Mr. Armstrong said MAS currently administers County dental insurance. Currently the County match into the pool is \$18.12 per employee. MAS is proposing the County match \$21.20 per employee into the pool for the coming year. During the year ending February 28, 2002, the County, to date, has lost \$23,491 through dental coverage. Currently, County employees pay \$27.24 per month for family coverage. Mr. Armstrong said they are proposing an increase of \$8.96 per month to \$36.20 per employee.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the increases as recommended by the County Administrator as follows:

County pays into the pool-----\$21.20  
Employee family coverage-----\$36.20

**ITEM D.1, CONTINUED,**

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

Regarding health insurance, Mr. Armstrong assured the Board of Supervisors that for all aspects of health insurance coverage, they had tried to compare each company=s coverage fairly and accurately. The County Administrator said they have received three proposals. The quote of United Health Care for a fully insured program and the quote from MAS were the best quotes received. Mr. Armstrong cautioned that to go to a fully insured program, the County would lose our stop loss coverage and would be exposed to 100% of any outstanding claims. Mr. Armstrong presented a synopsis of the previous year=s health coverage and its impact on the County insurance pool. Mr. Armstrong said in the year 2000, our loss ratio was 110%. In 2001, our loss ratio was 210%. During this year the County pool lost \$202,659 through medical claims.

Pharmacy is 20% of the total claims, and during this year the County lost \$50,665 through pharmacy claims.

Mr. Armstrong reported that through medical and pharmacy claims together, the County lost \$253,324.

Mr. Armstrong said the County currently adds \$346.24 per employee per month to the pool. Mr. Armstrong said he recommends putting in \$368.36 during the coming year for a 6.4% increase. This is an increase of \$22.12 per employee.

Currently an employee with family coverage pays \$403.76 per month.

During the past twelve months we put in \$1,599,763.76 for health and pharmacy. We put in \$103,960.89 for dental and the County paid MAS about \$22,735.00 per month during the past year, for a total of \$1,976,566. In short, this is what we put into the pool for a net loss of \$276,815. Supervisor Caldwell asked if this includes dependent coverage? David Armstrong said no.

Mr. Armstrong said the County=s stop loss is \$30,000 per employee. We have a maximum of \$1,000,000 per year we can pay.

Mr. Armstrong said he and Ms. Richmond recommend an increase as described in Exhibit D.1.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked who pays for employee physicals? Mr. Armstrong said the County does. Supervisor Caldwell asked if the County can refuse to hire someone based on the results of a physical. Mr. Armstrong said yes. Vickie Richmond alerted those present that a new privacy law was recently enacted that may have an effect on that information. Mr. Armstrong said he will ask Chamberlin/Nowak to check on the affects of the new privacy law as it relates to health insurance.

The Board of Supervisors asked about pre-existing illnesses. Vickie Richmond said the County has a twelve month pre-existing coverage policy.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton said he feels it is important to notify all employees if there is an increase in insurance premiums. David Armstrong said he will be glad to explain the increase to employees, but so many facts on paper may be difficult to understand.

Supervisor John Caldwell said this is evidence that the County=s 3% cost of living increase

**ITEM D.1, CONTINUED,**

did not cover the cost of living.

Supervisor Caldwell said he would rather keep the benefits the same and increase the monthly rate that employees pay. Supervisor Caldwell said he would rather raise the monthly rate than to raise the co-pay and deductible. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said many people do not use their deductible and to do so may hurt them.

Supervisor Medlin said he has heard people everywhere talk about family coverage being hard, and for employees making lower wages, this would be difficult. Supervisor Medlin said he would rather the monthly rates for dependents be less.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the recommendations of the County Administrator as presented in Exhibit 1 except for the new rates of dependent coverage as follows:

	<u>New Rate</u>
Children	\$175.00
Spouse	\$195.00
Family	\$215.00

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to authorize the Board President to sign the contract with MAS the motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**2. Comptroller – Joyce Riales**

**a. Bids Under Advisement – County Depository**

Director of Purchasing Jeannine Ruby and Comptroller Joyce Riales presented the bids for depository to the Board of Supervisors for approval. After comparing the interest earned and fees charged, the Comptroller recommended Peoples Bank and Trust Company to act as depository for DeSoto County funds. In addition the Comptroller and Director of Purchasing recommended all other financial institutions who returned their proposals on time to be approved to bid for the investment of surplus county funds. All proposals are recommended for approval for a period of two years.

In accordance with Section 27-105-305 of the Mississippi Code, which states that the Board of Supervisors, annually or in the discretion of the Board every two years, shall give notice to all financial institutions in its county whose accounts are insured by the FDIC or the FS&LIC by publication that bids will be received from financial institutions at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the privilege of keeping County funds or any part thereof, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve People’s Bank and Trust

**ITEM D.2.a, CONTINUED,**

as the County depository and to approve all other lending institutions as outlined in

Exhibit D.2 for the purpose of holding excess County funds. On this date the Board of Supervisors did receive such bids or proposals and accept the securities as authorized by law, which the financial institutions propose to give as security for funds. This Board of Supervisors will cause the County funds and all other funds in the hands of the County treasurer to be deposited in the qualified financial institution or qualified institutions proposing the best terms and meeting the requirements provided in Section 27-105-315. These terms shall be in force for two years or until new arrangements can be made according to this article. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**b. Supplemental Claims Docket**

Stephanie Hanks of the Accounting Department and Joyce Riales, Comptroller, presented the supplemental claims docket to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Stephanie Hanks read the docket and the Comptroller answered various questions and gave verifications as requested by the Board. After having read the docket and discussing certain issues, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the supplemental claims docket as presented. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**c. Late Bills**

**(1) County Administrator – Spring Workshop March 19 & 20**

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve payment of travel, registration, and all costs necessary for the County Administrator to travel to the Spring Workshop on March 19-20 and authorized the Clerk to write the checks. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**(2) TDL – First Regional Library**

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to authorize the Clerk to write the check for the monthly draw to TDL Contractors for the First Regional Library project as presented in Exhibit D.2.c.(2). The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES

**ITEM D.2.c, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES

Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**(3) TDL – DHS Building**

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to authorize the Clerk to write the check for the monthly draw to TDL Contractors for the DHS Building. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The executive session portion of these minutes are recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Executive Session".

**F. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Homesteads**

At the recommendation of the Chancery Clerk, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the Homestead Exemptions as presented by the Chancery Clerk and included herewith as Exhibit F.1. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

**2. Highway & Transportation Meeting**

Supervisor Eugene Thach reported to the Board that he attended the Highway and Transportation meeting on behalf of the County. Supervisor Thach said discussion was held concerning a potential 28% decrease in Federal money to the State. If Federal money is cut it will likely delay improvements to Interstate 55 south of the State line.

Supervisor Thach said “Vision 21” was also discussed at the meeting, and they issued a map depicting Vision 21.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to recess until February 25, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene Thach, District 2-----YES  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton, District 3-----YES  
Supervisor John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., District 4-----YES

**CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis, District 5-----ABSENT

This the 15th day of February 2002, these minutes have been read and approved by the

DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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Jessie L. Medlin, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors